

Apparatus and Method for Preparing and Installing Dental Restorations

Abstract

A two-part crown assembly which allows the cosmetic surface of a crown to be manufactured prior to installation such that aesthetic appearance of the crown provides a high level of realism and a natural look to the observer. A coping attaches to the stub of the tooth and provides permanent support for the crown. The second part of the crown assembly is a prefabricated anatomy which is attached to the coping. Both the coping and the prefabricated anatomy are manufactured in a controlled environment. As a result, quality can be maintained at minimum standards with high levels of aesthetic quality in the finished crown. In addition, the dental professional can install a crown in a fraction of the time required by the prior art, which results in substantial savings for the dental professional and the patient. The coping has a prepared surface that is configured to accept a prefabricated anatomy. In turn, the prefabricated anatomy also has a prepared surface which matches that of the coping. During installation, the coping is first attached to a tooth prep. Once securely attached to the prep, the

prefinished anatomy is attached to the prep. The prefinished anatomy may be attached by any suitable technique, such as porcelain, acrylic, or other suitable substance. The prefinished anatomy eliminates the need for the dental professional to spend extended amounts of time creating the anatomy, since they have been prepared under controlled conditions by highly skilled personnel at a manufacturing facility.